The Collingswood Presbyterian Church

A Cathedral of Service

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1930

Dedicated April 6th, 1930

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Presbyterian Church
(Collingswood, N.J.)
The Collingswood
Presbyterian Church

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The Collingswood Presbyterian Church

Dedicatory Program and History

"Behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."
—Rev. 3-8.

1 9 3 0

Collingswood, New Jersey

View of Our Church and Bible School Buildings

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory unto their children, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."
—Psalm 90: 16, 17.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning, April 6th, 1930

At Eleven o'clock

1. Organ Prelude
2. Doxology
3. Invocation — Rev. Harold S. Laird, *Minister*
4. Gloria
5. Psalter
6. Hymn 304—*"The Church's One Foundation"*
7. Scripture Lesson: 1st Kings 8, 22-30; 1st Kings 9, 1-3 — Rev. G. H. Hemingway, D.D., *First Presbyterian Church, Camden*
8. Anthem—*"Unfold Ye Portals"* — Gounod
9. Presentation of Keys — By Mr. Fred S. Feather, *Chairman Building Committee*
10. Reception of Keys — By Dr. T. W. Madden, *President Board of Trustees*
11. The Dedication — Conducted by the Pastor

Dearly beloved in the Lord, God our Heavenly Father, having in His grace, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord, brought to its consummation, our work of preparing for the honor of His Holy Name, a house within whose walls His Gospel is to be truly preached, His Sacraments are to be faithfully administered, and prayer and praise are to be offered unto Him, we are now gathered in His Presence for the purpose of devoting this house, by a solemn act of worship, to its proper and sacred use.

(*People standing*)

The Minister—To the glory of God the Father, by whose favor we have builded; to the honor of God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; to the praise of God, the Holy Spirit, source of life and light;

The People—*We dedicate this house.*

The Minister—To worship in prayer and music; for the ministry of the word; for the celebration of the Holy Sacraments;

The People—*We dedicate this house.*

View of Our Church and Bible School Buildings

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory unto their children, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."
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The People—*We dedicate this house.*

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

(Continued)

THE MINISTER—For the Christian education of youth and age in the holy precepts of the Bible, that all who study here may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works;

THE PEOPLE—*We dedicate this house.*

THE MINISTER—For the comfort of those who mourn, for the strength of those who are tempted, and for growth in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;

THE PEOPLE—*We dedicate this house.*

THE MINISTER—For missionary endeavor at home and abroad, for gospel evangelism in the Home, Sunday School, Church and Community;

THE PEOPLE—*We dedicate this house.*

THE MINISTER AND THE PEOPLE—As a tribute of gratitude and love, a free-will offering of thanksgiving, from those who have tasted the cup of thy salvation and experienced the riches of thy grace;

We, the people of The Collingswood Presbyterian Church, now consecrating ourselves anew, dedicate this entire building in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

12. DEDICATORY PRAYER — Rev. G. H. Hemingway, D.D.

13. OFFERTORY

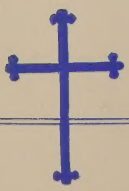
14. ANTHEM—*"Festival Te Deum"* — Dudley Buck

15. DEDICATORY SERMON—*"The Significance of a Church Edifice"*
1st Kings, 8-27—*"This house that I have builded."*
Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D., LL.D.
Stated Clerk of Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

16. HYMN 672—*"Founded on Thee, Our Only Lord"*

17. BENEDICTION — Rev. Harold S. Laird

18. POSTLUDE



SERVICE OF INSPIRATION

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening, April 6th, 1930

At Seven Forty-five o'clock

1. Organ Prelude
2. Anthem—*"I Heard the Voice of Jesus"* — Liszt
3. Invocation — Rev. Harold S. Laird, *Minister*
4. Hymn 61—*"Come Thou Almighty King"*
5. Scripture Lesson — Rev. Raymond Hilliard Gage, D.D. *Wenonah, N. J.*
6. Interlude
7. Prayer — Rev. Raymond Hilliard Gage, D.D. *Wenonah, N. J.*
8. Offertory
9. Anthem—*"The Lord is My Light"* — Parker
10. Hymn 286—*"Come, Dearest Lord, Descend and Dwell"*
11. Sermon—*"The Triumph of the Cross"* — Rev. Joseph Lyons Ewing, D.D.
    Text: Acts 12 — *Superintendent of Missions, Synod of New Jersey*
12. Hymn 300—*"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"*
13. Benediction — Rev. J. L. Ewing, D.D.
14. Postlude

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

PROGRAM OF DEDICATORY WEEK

All Services at Eight o'clock

Monday Evening, April 7, 1930

HOME COMING SERVICE — *Addresses by Former Pastors*

Tuesday Evening, April 8, 1930

ORGAN RECITAL — By Mr. John A. Bell, *Organ Architect*
Organist of First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Assisted by Mr. John Wilson, *Baritone*

Wednesday Evening, April 9, 1930

COMMUNITY SERVICE — *Addresses by Pastors of the Community*

MUSIC BY THE CHOIR
Augmented by representatives from Choirs of Sister Churches of Collingswood

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Thursday Evening, April 10, 1930

MUSICAL SERVICE — By the Choir

ORGAN RECITAL — By Mrs. Madelon Todd Maclary

Friday Evening, April 11, 1930

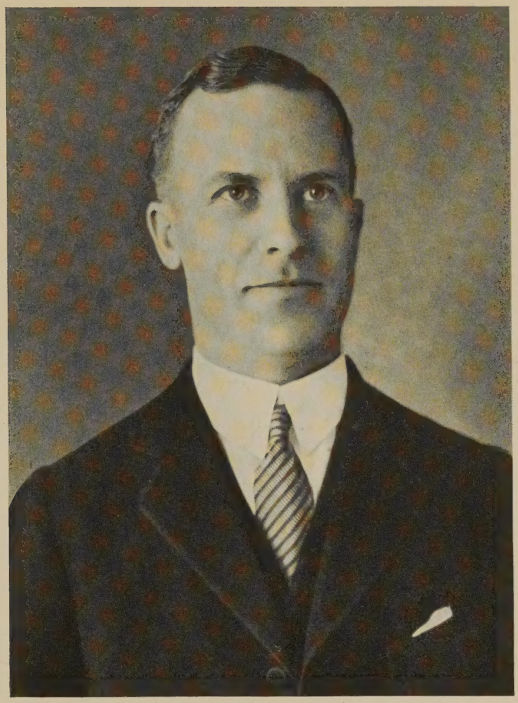
BIBLE SCHOOL SERVICE

PREPARATORY TO COMMUNION — Sermon by Rev. A. L. Lathem, D.D.
Third Presbyterian Church, Chester, Pa.

MALE CHORUS

Palm Sunday, April 13, 1930

COMMUNION SERVICE, 11.00 A.M. — EVENING WORSHIP, 7.45 P.M.



REV. HAROLD SAMUEL LAIRD, PASTOR

INTERIOR OF CHURCH AUDITORIUM

"Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."—1st Chron. 28:10.

HISTORY

Written by W. C. JOHNSON, *Clerk of Session*

THERE have been two previous occasions upon which it has seemed fitting to record a brief history of the most signal growth and progress, both temporal and spiritual, of The Collingswood Presbyterian Church. These were written on the tenth and twentieth anniversaries, first in the year 1912, and again in the year 1922. As we have now come to the third important period, which indeed marks the greatest and most advanced step in the life and progress of our church, it again seems fitting that a comprehensive history be presented to the congregation in commemoration of this occasion.

We believe at this time we have reached the consummation of a building program which was, from the very beginning, conceived in the hearts and minds of that small company of Presbyterians residing in Collingswood nearly three decades ago, when they met together for the first time to consider the advisability of establishing a Presbyterian Church in the Borough of Collingswood. The building and equipment which have now been completed are but the reality of what was, may we say, dimly visualized in those early days as our ultimate goal of achievement. And now as we look backward over the stretch of years, and recall with grateful hearts the manifold blessings which have been vouchsafed unto us by a loving and gracious Heavenly Father, we pause today to look upon this beautiful edifice which has been reared to the honor and glory of God, and wherein shall still be proclaimed the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the influence of which shall, we trust, by reason of a loyal and faithful membership, be felt throughout the community and carried through ever widening circles to the uttermost parts of the world. This has been the supreme object of the church in the past, and may it be its steadfast aim and high ideal for the future.

The history of The Collingswood Presbyterian Church dates from November 20, 1902, when the Rev. Dr. F. R. Brace, who at that time was the Presbyterial Missionary under the direction of the West Jersey Presbytery, spent the afternoon of that date in visiting the few Presbyterian families residing in the community, and these unanimously expressed a desire to have preaching services held at once. In response to this desire the first religious service was held on Sunday afternoon, December 7, 1902, in Tatem's Hall, which at that time stood on the corner of Haddon and Irving Avenues. The Rev. Dr. Brace conducted the service, and fifteen persons were present. The text of the sermon preached on that occasion was taken from the gospel of St. Mark, 11th chapter and 22nd verse, "Have Faith in God," and the subject was "Success Dependent on the Ground of One's Faith." The singing at this service was from memory, as no hymn books were available.

On the following Sunday, the Rev. W. W. Casselberry, who was then Pastor of the Haddonfield Presbyterian Church, preached at 3.30 in the afternoon, with about forty people in attendance. The text was taken from 1st Samuel, 15th chapter and 22nd verse, the subject being, "Obedience Better than Sacrifice." The first collection was taken at this service, a hat being passed around, and $3.75 was received. No hymn books were used at this meeting, so Mr. Casselberry offered to send some hymn books and copies of the Psalms for use at the next service. The following Friday fifty copies of the Psalms and thirty hymn books were received. This was the first gift to the church. A Bible for the pulpit, presented by the American Bible Society, was received and used for the first time at the service on January 11, 1903.

In the meantime Dr. Brace had written to the Rev. John E. Peters, of Camden, New Jersey, requesting him to take charge of the preaching services for the time being. This he consented to do, and to his faithful and untiring efforts we are primarily indebted for the successful completion of the church organization. Dr. Peters preached his first sermon on Sunday afternoon, December 28, 1902. His text was taken from Deuteronomy 33rd chapter, 25th verse, "As thy days so shall thy strength be." Fourteen persons were present at this service, and the collection amounted to $1.94.

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

The local committee which had been appointed by Dr. Brace to have charge of the meetings, sent postals to all those interested, requesting them to be present at the service on Sunday, January 4, 1903, as business of importance was to be transacted. This business was for the signing of a petition to the West Jersey Presbytery asking for the organization of a Presbyterian Church in Collingswood. The petition was circulated and at the close of the service seventeen names were found upon the membership petition, and one name for the support of the organization.

At the service on January 25th Dr. Peters announced that the petition had then been signed by thirty-one persons as members, and three as supporters, and that Dr. Brace would present the petition to the Presbytery on January 27th. The Presbytery met in the Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia, on that date and unanimously granted the petition for a Presbyterian Church in Collingswood, and appointed the following persons to organize the Church:

Rev. Dr. F. R. Brace, Presbyterial Missionary.
Rev. R. W. Peach, Camden, N. J.
Rev. R. H. Gage, Wenonah, N. J.
Rev. Dr. John E. Peters.
Mr. Henry D. Moore, Elder of Haddonfield Presbyterian Church.
Mr. Edwin L. Seabrook, Elder of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Camden, N. J.

The days immediately following were, to that nucleus of pioneer Presbyterians, and especially to the local committee, fraught with a peculiar enthusiasm and hopeful expectancy. Whenever Dr. Peters appeared in town with his little black bag in hand there almost inevitably followed an evening meeting of the local committee to discuss ways and means for the church organization, founded on the basis of strict Presbyterian Law and Rules of Government. We still remember with vivid recollection those midnight sessions which took place with almost systematic regularity, and out of which finally emerged the infant organization of The Collingswood Presbyterian Church. Being rooted and grounded in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, it has continued to develop and prosper until the present day.

On March 11, 1903, the church was organized in due form by the committee which had been appointed by the Presbytery. The following thirty-four persons were then enrolled and declared to be the charter members of the church, entering into full covenant by rising and joining hands and agreeing to walk together in church relationship according to the acknowledged doctrine and order of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

Mary E. Armstrong
Mrs. Mary A. Beggs
James M. Cochran
Mrs. Lorena Cochran
Samuel E. Jones
Mrs. Frances A. Jones
Carl R. Passehl
Albert R. Rudderow
Mrs. Mae C. Rudderow
Mrs. Martha B. Armstrong
Kate A. Brown
Dr. William A. Chamberlin
Mrs. Jennie W. Chamberlin
Charles Cressman
Mrs. Mae E. Cressman
Wesley C. Johnson
Mrs. Gertrude N. Johnson
James C. Dobbs
Mrs. Emma P. Dobbs
Laura P. Dobbs
Jonathan B. Evans
Mrs. Catherine L. Evans
William Hambrecht
Mrs. Lydia S. Hambrecht
Mrs. Minerva Culin
Rudolph S. Bay
Mrs. Jennie Billson
Mrs. Agnes B. Price
Mrs. Lillie Berry
Mrs. Emma B. Ewing
Mrs. Virginia W. Gardner
Mrs. Jennie R. Harrington
Mrs. Mary A. Shearer
Benjamin F. Gardner

Three Ruling Elders were elected and installed at this meeting, namely:

Jonathan B. Evans Dr. William A. Chamberlin Charles Cressman

These persons constituted the Session, and Dr. John E. Peters was appointed Moderator of that body until the next meeting of Presbytery.

The newly organized church then requested to be taken under the care of the West Jersey Presbytery and enrolled as "The Collingswood Presbyterian Church." The Session was instructed to give legal notice at once for a meeting of the congregation to elect seven Trustees, in order that the religious society might be incorporated under the laws of the State of New

Jersey. Accordingly a notice was posted on the door of Tatem's Hall by the Clerk of the Session on March 14, 1903, at 6.45 P.M., calling for a meeting of the congregation to be held on March 25, 1903, for the purpose of electing seven Trustees. At this meeting the following were elected as the first Board of Trustees of the church:

Frank D. Berry	Carl R. Passehl	William Hambrecht
Henry R. Tatem	Wesley C. Johnson	Benjamin F. Gardner
	James M. Cochran	

At the same time Jonathan B. Evans was elected the first Treasurer.

The first prayer meeting was held on March 4, 1903, at the home of Jonathan B. Evans, with eighteen persons present. The meeting was led by Dr. John E. Peters, and the subject was "Prayer; Especially Prayer for Our Church about to be Organized."

The Sunday School was organized on March 29, 1903, with a membership of thirty-five. The records of this first session of the School show the following:

Officers	4
Teachers	6
Scholars	25
Collection	$1.68

At that time the preaching service which had been held at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon, was changed to ten-thirty in the morning—a change that had been much desired and contemplated for some time.

Immediately following the organization of the Sunday School a Teachers Association was formed, the first meeting being held on April 7, 1903. At this meeting a Constitution was adopted for the government of the Association, and officers elected. This Association has been a most essential and vital part of the school through all the subsequent years, and still functions as an indispensable business organization in connection with the ever increasing development and needs of the Sunday School. In comparison with the first enrollment the School now reports a total membership of 953 of which 6 are Officers and 54 Teachers, with an annual contribution for Current Expense and Benevolences amounting to approximately $2000.00.

The envelope system is also used in the Bible School, one Sunday of each month being designated as Missionary Sunday. The envelope used for this purpose is of a different color from that used for the other Sundays throughout the year, and all money received on Missionary Sunday is devoted entirely to benevolences, and is apportioned to the various Boards of the church by a committee appointed from the Sunday School Association. All other collections are used for the running expenses of the School. This system was adopted when the Bible School was first organized, and on several occasions the surplus funds over and above the actual expense of the School have been turned over to the Treasurer of the Church and usually applied to the general Building Fund.

In 1912 the Bible School subscribed for five shares of stock in the Collingswood Building and Loan Association, for the purpose of creating a fund which, upon maturity of the stock, could be directly applied to the building program of the Church as a contribution from the School. This stock was increased to seven shares in 1913, and most of the monthly payments on these shares were made by various classes of the School. The first series of this stock matured in 1923, and the second in 1924, and the total proceeds amounting to $1400.00 were placed in the hands of the Church Treasurer to be applied to the Building Fund.

Also in 1927 a fund of $2000.00 was raised by the Bible School to provide a scholarship in the Omaha Theological Seminary, Omaha, Nebraska. This is known as the Collier Memorial Scholarship, and is in honor of Mrs. Francis J. Collier, who is a member of our Church and Bible School. Each year the interest from this fund is used for the assistance of a student of the Seminary who is studying for the ministry.

The first Communion was administered on May 3, 1903, the silver service being loaned by the Haddonfield Presbyterian Church. Our own individual Communion Service, con-

sisting of two trays and seventy-two cups, and also two bread trays, was purchased by general subscription at a cost of $40.60, and used for the first time on February 7, 1904. Since then our Communion Service equipment has been added to from time to time as required by the steady growth in membership, so that at present we have sixteen triple plated silver trays, each containing thirty-six individual cups, with twelve bread trays to match. In addition to this we have one aluminum tray in two sections, containing eighty individual glass cups which is used in emergencies.

Among the various activities of the church since its organization, none has had a more prominent place, nor ever considered to be of more importance to its spiritual life, than the Missionary work, both at home and abroad. The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1904, and up until the year 1921 its contributions to Home and Foreign Missions, together with the church benevolences, had steadily increased each year, and it was at this time that prayerful consideration was given to the matter of assuming the responsibility for the support of our own missionary on the foreign field. Soon after deciding to assume such support, our attention was called to Dr. Ellis H. Hudson, a young man who was planning to go to the foreign field as a Medical Missionary. Arrangements were finally made through the Board of Foreign Missions to have Dr. Hudson assigned to us as our own representative, and since the fall of 1922 Dr. and Mrs. Hudson have been stationed at Deir-ez-Zore, Syria, in charge of the Medical Missionary work.

In April, 1928, the church also assumed the support of a missionary on the home field, and we now have the Rev. and Mrs. James R. Smith as our representatives among the Navajo Indians at Fort Defiance, Arizona.

We also have an important interest in the work among the Jews of our own State, and in May, 1929, arrangements were made through the Board of National Missions to designate a certain proportion of our benevolences for the partial support of a Jewish worker. The Rev. Emanuel S. Greenbaum, a Hebrew Christian, was assigned as our representative, and is in charge of the work among the people of his own race at Bethany Centre, Newark, New Jersey.

In addition to the above we also contribute to the support of Rev. J. N. Carnine, a Sunday School Missionary under the Presbyterian Board, who is located at Laramie, Wyoming.

The various other activities which form a part of the church organization as a whole, are the following: The Ushers' Association, Choir, Ladies' Aid Society, Junior Missionary Society, Group Leaders, Senior, Intermediate and Junior Christian Endeavor Societies; also the Cradle Roll, Beginners, Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Young Peoples Departments of the Bible School, together with the Adult Organized Bible Classes, Home Department and the Summer Bible School.

PROPERTY AND BUILDING

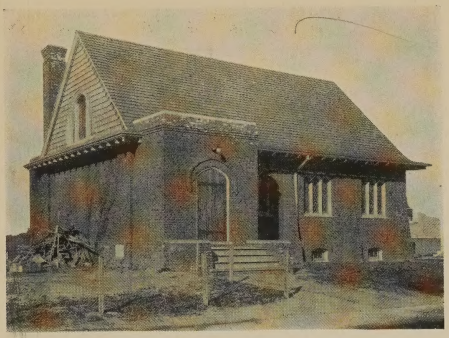
Shortly following the election of the first Board of Trustees, steps were taken looking toward the purchase of a suitable site for the erection of a church building, and on May 25, 1903, a committee of the Trustees was appointed to select a desirable lot for this purpose. There being no available funds for the purchase of a lot, the committee worked along in a quiet way until January 25, 1904, when they reported having in view the lot at the corner of Haddon and Frazer Avenues, measuring 65 by 120 feet. At this time there was $16.32 in the Building Fund toward the purchase of a lot. The committee opened negotiations for this property, and upon the request of the Trustees a congregational meeting was held on August 17, 1904, to vote on the purchase of same. At this meeting the Trustees were authorized to secure the lot on as favorable terms as possible, the purchase price being $1600.00. This lot was finally purchased and plans were at once formulated by the joint Boards of the church for the erection of a suitable Church and Sunday School building.

Ground was broken for the first building on August 16, 1905. Exercises appropriate to the occasion were held on the open lot on the evening of this date, and at seven o'clock Rev.

Dr. John E. Peters turned the first spadeful of earth, while the friends assembled sang the Doxology, after which a spadeful of earth was turned by everyone present.

The construction work progressed rapidly and the first service was held in the new church on December 17, 1905. The building, however, was not dedicated until Sunday morning, April 8, 1906, followed by a week of special dedicatory services. This building was erected and furnished at a cost of approximately $6000.00.

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
—1 Cor. 3-11.



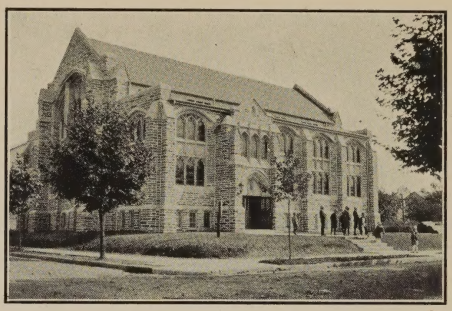
Our First Church Building, Haddon and Frazer Avenues

Along with the remarkable increase in population of the community at that time, the membership of the Church and Sunday School grew quite rapidly, and again in 1913 it was deemed necessary to build an addition to the church or erect an entirely new building in order to provide more adequate facilities. The Sunday School had for some time previous outgrown the church accommodations, so that it became necessary to secure other quarters for several departments of the school. For this purpose the second floor of the Collingswood National Bank, known as Bank Hall, was rented for the use of the Primary Department, and a dwelling house on the corner of Frazer and Haddon Avenues, directly across the street from the church, was rented for the intermediate departments. This segregation of the various departments of the Sunday School was early recognized as very unsatisfactory for the best interests of the School, and steps were immediately taken to provide a more adequate building. After much thoughtful deliberation and a careful survey of the situation it was decided to sell the present property, purchase a larger lot, and erect a new Church and Sunday School building. This plan was duly authorized by the congregation, and in 1915 the lot at the corner of Fern and Maple Avenues (our present location) was purchased at a cost of $5550.00. This property has an area of approximately 29,000 square feet, having a frontage of 210 feet on Fern Avenue, and 142 feet on Maple Avenue. With the purchase of this lot, the property at the corner of Haddon and Frazer Avenues was sold to the Borough of Collingswood for $9000.00. This site is now occupied by the Free Carnegie Library, with the original church building joined to same in the rear and used for the Junior Library.

Immediately after securing title to the new property, negotiations were entered into for a new Church and Sunday School building. On October 2, 1916, ground was broken for this new structure at five o'clock in the evening, and about one hundred members of the congregation assembled at the new site to witness the ceremony. Work progressed without interruption and the corner stone for this building was laid on the afternoon of November 25, 1916. On this occasion the box and its contents, which had been placed in the corner stone of the first building, was removed and deposited beside the box in the corner stone of the new building.

The first service was held in this building on Sunday morning, September 2, 1917, all furniture and equipment having been removed from the old church after the last service held there on Sunday, August 26th. A special order of exercises was arranged to mark the occasion of vacating the old church and beginning services in the new church. The congre-

gation assembled at the old church at ten o'clock, and marched in a body to the new church. The hymn, "I love thy kingdom Lord, the house of thine abode," was sung while marching from one church to the other, and after entering the building the choir sang the anthem, "Praise the Lord, Oh Jerusalem." Rev. Robert I. MacBride, the Pastor elect, preached the sermon, taking his text from 2nd Timothy, 4th chapter and 2nd verse, "Preach the Word." One hundred and fifty-two persons were present at this service. As the main auditorium of the church was not completed at this time, services were held in the Social Room down stairs until December 2, 1917, when the church was dedicated.



Our Second Church Building, Fern and Maple Avenues

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him and bless his name."
—Psalm 100-4.

This Church and Sunday School building was erected at a cost of $35,000.00, necessitating the placing of a mortgage of $17,000.00 upon its completion. As the interest of this indebtedness represented quite an item of expense, it was considered desirable to pay off the mortgage as soon as possible. Plans were at once formulated to accomplish this, and on Sunday evening, January 30, 1921, a service was held to celebrate the liquidation of the mortgage indebtedness. Thus in a little more than three years after being erected and dedicated the church was clear of debt.

Before another year had passed the property at No. 857 Maple Avenue was purchased for The Manse, at a cost of $6500.00. In the fall of 1927 The Manse was remodeled and enlarged, at a cost of approximately $10,000.00. This indebtedness was partly covered by mortgage, but we are glad to say that just within the past month the final payment was made on this mortgage, which leaves the property of The Manse entirely free of all encumbrance.

In equipping the above Church and Sunday School building the purchase of a pipe organ was contemplated, and to the members of the congregation who constituted the choir at that time, we are largely indebted for making this undertaking a success.

On April 1, 1918, a meeting of the Session and Trustees was held to discuss the matter, and at this meeting it was reported that the choir had secured $525.00 as a fund toward the purchase of an organ. At the congregational meeting on April 9, 1918, the purchase of the organ was authorized, the same to cost approximately $2200.00, and that it should be erected as a memorial to the late Rev. Dr. Francis J. Collier, who for several years had been a member of our congregation and served the church on many occasions as Moderator of the Session, and also supplied the pulpit and conducted the prayer meetings during the intervals when the church was without a regular Pastor.

The organ was completed and used for the first time on December 20, 1918. In the plan of the recent remodeling of the church building this memorial organ was considered too small for future use, and the value of same was taken into account when negotiations were entered into with the architect for a new and larger organ. In order to perpetuate the memorial to Dr. Collier, however, the inscription plate on the previous organ has been appropriately placed upon the new one. A complete description of the new pipe organ will be found on another page of this booklet.

When the second building was erected at the corner of Fern and Maple Avenues it was planned with the idea in mind of utilizing the remaining area of the lot for a separate building for the Church when the necessity warranted such an extension. Between the years 1918 and 1926 the membership of both the Church and Sunday School steadily increased, and it soon became evident that more adequate facilities would have to be provided for properly housing the Sunday School. It was, therefore, in May, 1926, that a committee was appointed to study the problem of further expansion in building in order to relieve the crowded condition which was experienced in practically every department of the school. In the succeeding months this committee visited several Sunday Schools for the purpose of securing information as to plans and equipment, with the result that in the early part of 1928 Mr. George W. Savage, an experienced architect in the designing of Church and Sunday School buildings, was invited to meet with the committee and submit sketches of a plan which would be particularly adapted to our needs. After a careful study of our requirements a plan was submitted which met with the unanimous approval of the committee, and also the joint Boards of Session and Trustees. This plan was recommended to, and approved by, the congregation at a meeting called for that purpose on May 22, 1928, and at the same time the Trustees were authorized to begin negotiations for the erection of the new building.

A campaign for raising the necessary funds to meet the expense of a building program as contemplated was conducted for four weeks, from May 27th to June 17th, 1928, under the direction of the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church. At the close of this campaign approximately $90,000.00 was subscribed, payable over a period of four years. Arrangements were then made with the architect to prepare the necessary plans and specifications and to invite bids for the erection of a new Sunday School Auditorium, and also the remodeling of the present church building, at a cost not to exceed $175,000.00. When the bids were received it was found that the cost of the new building and improvements would not be more than $135,000.00.

Ground was broken for the new construction on Sunday afternoon, December 2, 1928, at four o'clock. About five hundred persons were present and appropriate exercises were held in honor of the occasion. The general contract for the work was duly signed on February 14, 1929, but owing to some unforeseen legal transactions which required adjustment before operations could begin, the excavation work was not started until February 18th. Excavation was completed March 8th, 1929, at which time the foundation walls had been started. The

"So we built the wall; . . . For the people had a mind to work."
—Nehemiah 4-6.

Corner Stone Laying Exercises, July 14, 1929

corner stone to mark the final stage of our building program was placed in the wall at the tower entrance of the Church, and was laid on the afternoon of Sunday, July 14, 1929, at four o'clock, with a program of special exercises.

The construction work was carried on with rapid progress from the start, with the purpose of having the new Bible School Auditorium completed and ready for use before beginning the remodeling work in the old building.

The first service was held in the new building on Wednesday evening, November 13, 1929, in the main auditorium, and the first session of all departments of the Bible School was held on Sunday morning, November 17, 1929, at 9.45. This also marked the occasion of definitely changing the Bible School hour from Sunday afternoon to Sunday morning. The attendance at this session of the School was 516.

Preaching services were also begun in the Bible School Auditorium on this same date, and continued there until completion of the remodeling of the old building. The Pastor, Rev. Harold S. Laird, preached on the text from Psalm 119, verse 130, "The Entrance of Thy Words Giveth Light," which text is inscribed upon the wall above the platform.

At this writing, February 25, 1930, the work on the interior of the old building is rapidly nearing completion, and any attempt to recite the transformation which has taken place inside its sacred walls is beyond the purpose of this article. The finished work will speak for itself, and we feel sure will merit the commendation of all who may now and hereafter come to worship within this Temple of the Lord.

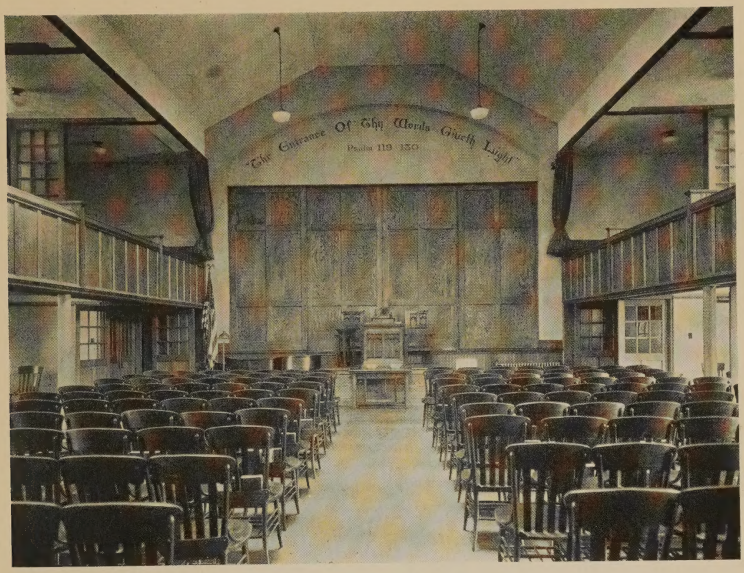
A brief description of the new building, relative to design and construction, and also the general plan and equipment, will be found on another page of this booklet.

In reciting this story of the church we desire to express appreciation for the several memorials which have been presented from time to time by the members and friends as a token of their interest and love for the church, and the principles for which it stands.

In addition to the first pipe organ as a memorial to the late Dr. Collier, as before men-

"Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it."
—Psalm 127:1.

BIBLE SCHOOL ENTRANCE



INTERIOR VIEW OF BIBLE SCHOOL'S MAIN AUDITORIUM

tioned, several of the windows in the old church and Sunday School building were placed as memorials, and suitably marked with the names of those of whom they are in honor. The large window in the Maple Avenue end of the church was placed originally by voluntary contributions in honor of Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Casselberry. In the remodeling of the church this window has been replaced by one of far superior quality, and more beautiful in design and architecture. It is still known, however, as the Casselberry window. The corresponding window in the south end of the building is of similar design and character, and has been placed, also by voluntary contributions, as a Missionary Window in honor of our first missionary, Dr. Ellis H. Hudson and his wife Mary Y. Hudson. The new windows on the right of the vestibule, just beyond the tower entrance, have also been placed as memorials. The baptismal font stands as a memorial presented by the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Robert I. MacBride.

Very early in the spiritual development of the church it was recognized that the benevolent work should occupy a large place in every activity, and that the grace of giving was an essential part of all true worship. Consequently some small apportionment of funds was made each year to the various Boards of the church, especially for Home and Foreign Missions. Under the pastorate of Rev. W. W. Casselberry, however, it was decided to forever discontinue any method of raising funds for the church by fairs, suppers and entertainments where tickets were sold and admission charged, and that all money raised for Current Expense and Benevolence, or any other purpose, should be only by voluntary contributions, based upon the budget system and the annual every-member canvas. The duplex envelope system was adopted and put into use in 1906.

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

TABLE SHOWING ANNUAL REPORTS TO PRESBYTERY AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1904 - 1929

The following table gives the summary of our annual reports to Presbytery and General Assembly, showing the amount of money raised for Current Expense and Benevolence, and also the increase in membership, from year to year since the organization of the Church:

Year	Congregational Expenses	Benevolence Contributions	Membership
1904	$768.00	$15.00	44
1905	1,607.00	25.00	65
1906	3,039.00	43.00	96
1907	2,070.00	255.00	124
1908	1,818.00	252.00	133
1909	1,815.00	640.00	141
1910	3,086.00	728.00	179
1911	3,409.00	815.00	181
1912	2,410.00	1,034.00	179
1913	2,055.00	1,323.00	179
1914	2,319.00	1,186.00	207
1915	2,700.00	1,464.00	239
1916	4,016.00	1,406.00	271
1917	11,351.00	1,379.00	289
1918	31,203.00	1,739.00	324
1919	9,630.00	2,042.00	352
1920	11,406.00	3,744.00	450
1921	6,571.00	2,018.00	490
1922	8,316.00	4,664.00	535
1923	9,232.00	5,579.00	563
1924	11,332.00	6,202.00	588
1925	12,900.00	6,146.00	686
1926	14,916.00	8,557.00	742
1927	14,353.00	10,622.00	822
1928	11,811.00	8,960.00	888
1929	12,980.00	8,010.00	925
	$197,113.00	$78,848.00	

PASTORATES

From the time of the organization of the Church until October, 1904, the pulpit was occupied by stated supplies. As already mentioned, when first organized the Church was taken under the care of the West Jersey Presbytery, and financial assistance granted as Synodical Aid for the partial support of pastor, to the amount of $300.00 per year. Under this arrangement the pastors were subject to the Presbytery.

This Synodical Aid was received until the year 1910, when it was unanimously agreed by the Session and Trustees that the church had reached a point in its financial growth and progress to warrant self-support. Accordingly a formal request was made of Presbytery to be placed upon the list as a self-supporting church and congregation.

During the history of the church the following have served as Pastors:

Rev. J. W. MacCallum—February, 1905, to April, 1905.

Rev. E. F. Reimer—December, 1905, to October, 1908.

Rev. W. W. Casselberry—February, 1909, to October, 1912.

Rev. J. N. McDowell—December, 1912, to April, 1917.

Rev. Robt. I. MacBride, Ph.D.—August, 1917, to August, 1923.

Rev. Russell Paynter—October, 1923, to June, 1927.

Rev. Harold S. Laird—December, 1927.

With the steady increase in membership of the church, the secretarial duties in connection with every branch of the organization became more and more pressing. This, in some measure, encroached upon the freedom of the Minister in the performance of the pastoral work among the sick, and also calling upon prospective members who were continually moving into the community. To relieve this situation it was decided to establish a church office and employ a Secretary to look after all details pertaining to the general official work of the church. This secretarial position has been most efficiently and satisfactorily filled by Miss Ethel Rink since May, 1925.

Time and space do not permit any detailed reference to the many godly men and women who, by their devoted lives and services, and by the faithful training of their children, have contributed so much to the record of the church's achievements. Nor can we here recite the many deeds of kindness and mercy rendered by those ninety-six members who, in the years past, have labored with us in the work of the kingdom. These faithful soldiers of the cross have laid down their arms in the bivouac of life, and have "entered those low green tents whose curtains never outward swing." One by one their names have been transferred from the records of the visible church on earth, and have been enrolled in that larger record of the "book of life" which shall one day be opened in the presence of their Lord. Today we revere the memory of those departed Christian friends whom we have "loved and lost awhile."

Thus ends the first quarter of a century, and more, of service of the Collingswood Presbyterian Church. We may not measure its achievements by the stately edifice that now rears its tower to meet the bending sky, nor yet by the number of those whose names appear upon the roll of its present membership; but rather by the influence it has exerted upon the unnumbered company of those who, in the gospel message of its ministers, and in the silent testimony of its inner purpose, have felt the presence of Almighty God as He met with His people in His earthly tabernacle.

But what of the future that lies before us? If thirty-four men and women, with nothing but their faith in God, could set in motion influences which have made the record which we have just reviewed, what may not we, now almost one thousand strong, with the experiences

THE MANSE

of the past to guide us, and the advantages of an adequate equipment to aid us, accomplish in the time of our opportunity? The achievements of the past must surely inspire us with new confidence in the divinely appointed task of the Church of Christ. The door of opportunity today stands open for every true believer, and across the threshhold the future invites us to labor on with a good hope that God will use us, though unworthy, in the further building up of His church and the establishment of His kingdom on earth.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PLANT

The church plant as a whole consists of three units, each practically isolated from the other. These units are placed around a central court, the church proper being at the left, the Junior Bible School departments in the center, and the Senior and Intermediate departments to the right. This arrangement is ideal, as it insures a maximum of light and ventilation from all sides. The total buildings cover a large area, the frontage along Fern Avenue being 196 feet, with a maximum depth of 100 feet on Maple Avenue.

The church auditorium is an extension of an existing building. It is a good type of the ecclesiastical church in a modified gothic style. The main entrance is through a tower on the court, into a narthex the full width of the church. This narthex forms one of three entrances to the church proper. Within the main auditorium the pulpit is centrally located, opposite the narthex, with the choir in the rear. The first floor of the auditorium has a pew seating capacity of five hundred and fifty, while the galleries which surround the auditorium on three sides, have a seating capacity of three hundred; the choir loft will accommodate fifty, making the total seating capacity nine hundred. By the use of extra chairs, in case of emergency, an audience of about one thousand persons can be comfortably seated.

The inside walls of the church auditorium are of a colored sand finish, with ceiling of an open timber construction. Through the two large stained glass windows in the gable ends, and the leaded glass windows on the two sides, including galleries and clere story, there is diffused a soft, mellow light which bathes the whole interior with a calm and restful atmosphere.

The lighting fixtures are of wrought iron and brass, in hand-worked craftsmanship. The interior finish throughout is of beautiful grained and paneled oak, and in all other details a rich and durable quality has been maintained.

Adjoining the church proper, and connected by hall and stairway, is the unit for the lower grades of the Bible School. This is a two-story building consisting of a large Beginners' Department on the first floor, with the Primary Department on the second. This unit is segregated from the main school, assuring absolute privacy for the departmental work. Adjoining this wing is the Junior and Adult unit. This is a large structure two stories high. The Junior Department is to the rear, separated from the Adult Department by four large sliding doors and sound-proofing curtains. The main auditorium of this unit is occupied by the Intermediate, Senior and Adult classes. It is arranged with individual class rooms surrounding the main floor and galleries, the classes on the main floor being segregated by folding doors, and those in the galleries by sliding glass partitions and heavy sound-proofing curtains. To the right of the Junior Department are two small rooms used as offices of the Superintendent and Secretaries.

In the entire layout of the Bible School unit no detail has been omitted that is required in the modern educational church work. Each department of the lower grades has its wardrobes, blackboards, toilet systems, and also separate entrances from the street.

Accommodations for the social activities of the congregation will be taken care of in the main auditorium of the Bible School unit, and by adequate basement rooms under the entire plant. Concerts, entertainments, and large public gatherings will be held in the main school, which provides a seating capacity of about six hundred. Religious pageants may be given by using the Junior Department unit as a stage, the same being equipped with a fine arrangement of curtains and footlights.

Under the main school there is a large assembly hall with a seating capacity of three hundred, and to the rear of this a large recreation room with high ceiling, suitable for basket ball and other gymnasium work. The basement room under the main church auditorium will be used as the dining hall, which has an area of 3160 square feet. Adjacent to this is located the church kitchen, equipped with two large modern hotel gas ranges, steam table,

coffee urns, food tables, two double sinks; also dresser closets for dishes and cooking utensils. At one end of the kitchen is a good size pantry.

Under the central unit is located the lavatories and boiler room, separated by a wide corridor. The heating system is of the vacuum-vapor type, served by large twin boilers, each capable of supplying adequate heat for the entire plant. These boilers are equipped with oil burners under thermostatic control.

The exterior of the building is of light gray stone with white pointing, and with artificial concrete stone trimming. The roof is covered with blue-black Bangor slate. The masonry work performed on the building merits special attention. In the original building the stone selected was of a light gray sandstone formation from the Chestnut Hill quarries. For the new extension the stone, while from a different quarry, has been selected with a view of matching the original masonry as nearly as possible, and it will be noted that the contractor for the masonry work, in joining the old building with the new, and in the tower construction which forms the main entrance to the church as a whole, has succeeded in blending the masonry effect in such a manner that the exterior wall presents the appearance of one continuous structure.

THE ORGAN

This instrument was specified to fit the auditorium and it contains ample power and great variety of tone. It is a three manual Estey Organ consisting of the Great Organ, Swell Organ and Echo Organ. In addition to this there is the Pedal Organ which is the foundation, so to speak, of the whole instrument. The Great and Swell Organs, also the Pedal, are placed in a chamber which opens into the choir space, and the Echo Organ is placed in a special room built for it, located in the rear of the auditorium and opening on to the rear gallery. Each of the three organs, Great, Swell and Echo, are enclosed in a swell box or expression chamber so that they may be opened or closed at the will of the player.

There are many orchestral solo effects in this organ, and in the Echo Organ there are soft strings and flutes and a set of chimes, all of which are most delightful in tone quality.

The console is equipped with the most modern mechanical appliances in the way of pistons and couplers and an organist may play an entire recital with little need for taking the hands off the keys to make changes.

The volume of tone in this organ is unusually big and solid and yet it is not noisy, and there are many velvety tones which go to make up a beautiful combination of tone color.

Collingswood
Presbyterian
Church

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Session

Rev. Harold S. Laird, *Moderator*

Dr. Wm. A. Chamberlin	John G. Macky
Lawrence Isaacs	James C. Fox
Harry W. Veatch	Murray W. Sanders
John K. Wilson	R. S. Wigfield
Oliver M. Love	Claude B. Annesley
J. Ernest Kelly	W. C. Johnson, *Clerk*

Dr. Ellis H. Hudson, *Missionary Abroad*

Trustees

Dr. T. W. Madden, *President*	Fred S. Feather
Charles H. Chase, *Secretary*	George B. McKeag
Warren H. Allen, *Treasurer*	Walter F. Thompson
Lawrence Isaacs	E. K. Post
Henry R. Tatem	Robert Thomson
Edward R. Shane	Joseph Robb

OFFICERS OF THE BIBLE SCHOOL

Albert F. Miller, *Superintendent Bible School*
John K. Wilson, *Associate Superintendent*
Charles L. Maurer, *Associate Superintendent*
Robert McLaughlin, *Secretary*
Raymond Forman, *Assistant Secretary*
Everett Cranmer, *Assistant Secretary*
J. Ernest Kelly, *Treasurer*
Miss Marion McNeil, *Recording Secretary*
Mrs. George J. Mohr, *Superintendent Cradle Roll*
Mrs. James H. Davenport, *Superintendent Beginners' Department*
Mrs. Charles L. Maurer, *Superintendent Primary Department*
Walter F. Thompson, *Superintendent Junior Department*
Walter N. Grant, *Superintendent Intermediate Department*
John G. Macky, *Superintendent Adult Department*
Mrs. C. Ewing Mulford, *Superintendent Home Department*
Miss Betty Ransom, *Superintendent Young People's Work*

THE BUILDERS

Much of the success of our building program has been due to the helpful co-operation of the architect, contractors, sub-contractors and material men. All have worked in unison, have given freely of their labor, and have been diligent in their service. The Official Boards of the Church take this opportunity to publicly express appreciation of the work of these men whose names follow, and also gratefully acknowledge their financial assistance which has helped to make possible the issuing of this booklet.

Building Architect	George E. Savage	Philadelphia, Pa.
Organ Architect	John A. Bell	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Pipe Organ	Estey Organ Co.	Philadelphia, Pa.
General Contractor	Hugh Miller	Edgewater Park, N. J.
Stone Work	Nicola V. Mandes	Llanerch, Pa.
Trimming Stone	Formigli Architectural Stone Co.	Williamstown Jct., N. J.
Steel Work	Robert Lederle	Philadelphia, Pa.
Roofing	Quaker City Roofing Co.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Millwork	Hichner & Holmes	Camden, N. J.
Plastering	Peterson & Read	Camden, N. J.
Painting	Joseph F. Vallin	Philadelphia, Pa.
Electrician	Charles S. Wright	Camden, N. J.
Lighting Fixtures	Louis Bodo	Philadelphia, Pa.
Plumbing and Heating	Warren Webster Co.	Camden, N. J.
Boiler Installation	Hart & Crouse	Philadelphia, Pa.
Oil Burners	South Jersey Engr. & Sales Co.	Camden, N. J.
Steel Windows	Detroit Steel Products Co.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Art Glass Windows	P. J. Reeves Stained Glass Co.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Pew Furniture	DeLong Furniture Co.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Gallery Chairs	American Seating Co.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Sanitary Plumbing	Samuel Peters	Woodbury, N. J.

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